

Shelby County Election Commission

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JAMES H. JOHNSON
Administrator of
Elections

To: Myron Lowery, Chair
Memphis Charter Commission

From: Myra Stiles, Chair
Shelby County Election Commission

Re: Charter Commission Suggestions

The Shelby County Election Commission would like for the Memphis Charter Commission to consider these suggestions:

1. Staggered terms for city council
2. Realign the municipal election schedule with the November general election
3. Remove the requirement for filing fees, or
4. Set up a procedure for the fees to be collected by the city, with the candidate required to present proof of payment when the petition is filed with the election commission.
5. Clarify the residence requirement of five years: Who determines whether a candidate has met the requirement and how is it determined?
6. Provide for runoffs in elections for all city offices or eliminate runoffs in district council elections.
7. If runoffs are held, clarify the timing of runoff elections
8. Require the appointment of outside counsel on questions regarding municipal elections rather than using the services of the city attorney.